




Extravagant Worship

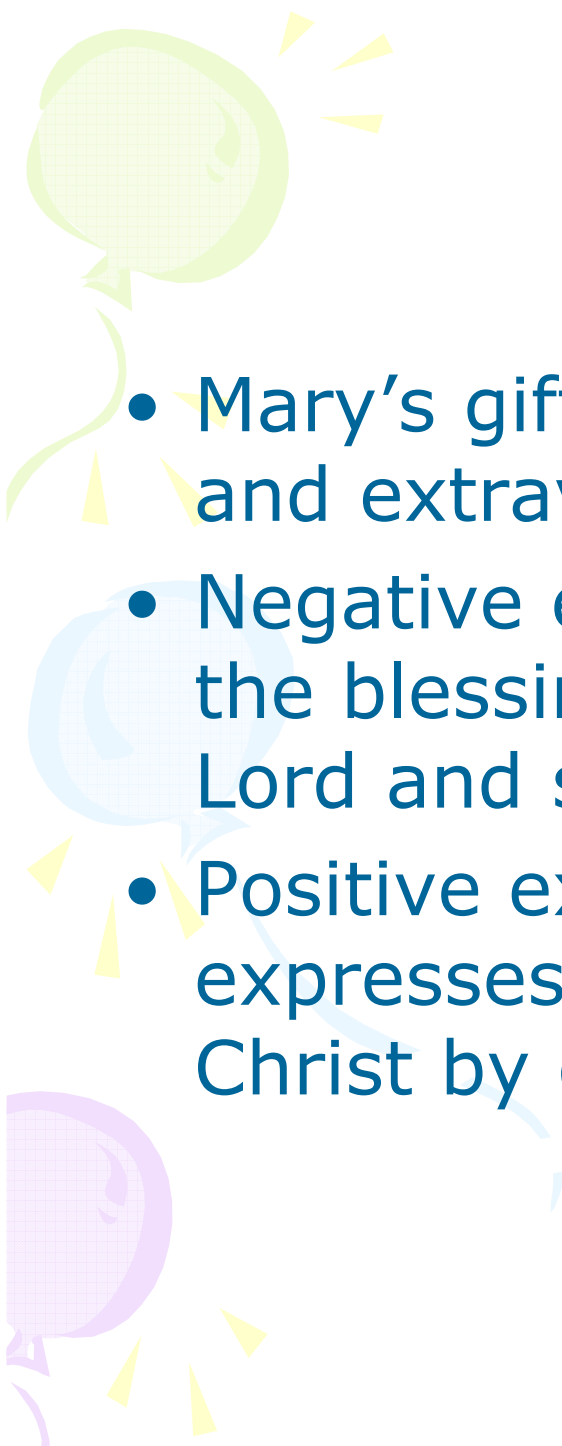
John 12:1-9



Introduction

Extravagant defined as:

1. Spending too much: characterized by spending excessively or wastefully
 2. Beyond what is reasonable: exaggerated or unreasonable
 3. Unreasonably high in price or cost
 4. Flamboyant: profusely or exaggeratedly decorated, decorative or showy
- The idea of going overboard or doing too much
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- Mary's gift to Jesus was seen as excessive and extravagant
 - Negative extravagance: when people take the blessings they have been given by the Lord and squander on themselves
 - Positive extravagance: when a person expresses their love and worship for Jesus Christ by giving their all



I. The Expense Of Her Worship



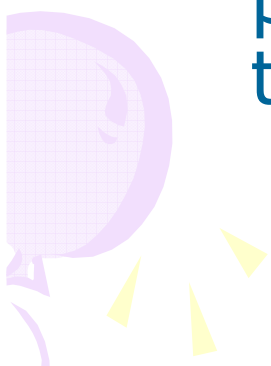
A. She broke a box of ointment and poured it on the head and feet of Jesus.

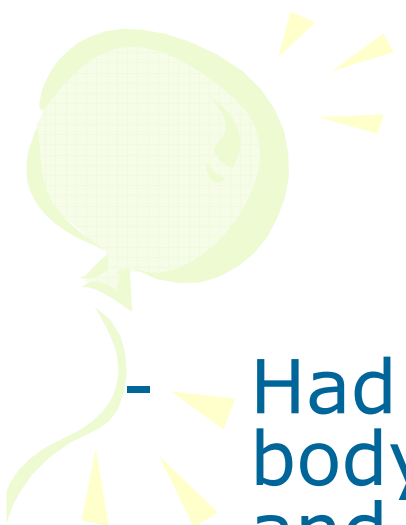
Mk 14:3 - costly spikenard from India.



B. Breaking of alabaster box , two ancient customs are in view.

- breaking of glasses -> when a distinguished person ate in a home often the glass they had used was broken to prevent a lesser person from using it in the future





- Had to do with burial rituals. After the body of the deceased had been washed and anointed, the box that had contained the embalming spices was broken and the fragments were buried with the individual



C. Mary gave everything she possessed to the Lord



D. Mary's sacrifice was the ultimate expression of her love and worship of the Lord. Mark 14:8



II. The Expression Of Her Worship

- A. Mary had assumed a kneeling position to anoint Jesus, a picture of surrender
- B. Mary selfless act of love and worship illustrates WHO she believed Jesus to be.

Four classes of people anointed in those days:

1. Kings (2Kings 9:3)
2. Priests (Exodus 29:7)
3. Prophets (I Kings 19:16)
4. The Dead

(John 19:39-40, Luke 23:56, Mark 16:1)





Mary saw Jesus as:

1. He is the King of Kings (Rev 19:16)

2. He is the Great High Priest
(Hebrews 3:1)

3. He is the Prophet (Matthew 13:31)

4. He was dead but is alive
(Revelations 1:18)





C. Mary was more in touch with Jesus than the disciples. They were the “spectators” and she was “the participant”.



D. Mary display her humility in two profound ways:

1. willing to work as a common slave
2. surrendered her pride

E. What about us?



Does our lives reveal our kneeling before Him?



III. The Enlargement Of her Worship

A. Mary does the same things each time she met Jesus

1. Mary sitting at Jesus feet (Luke 10:38-42)

- She is learning. She wants to **hear the Word.**

2. Mary runs to Jesus and bows at His feet (John 11:28-32)

- She is leaning. She wants to **experience His Works.**

3. Mary offers her worship to Jesus (John 12:1-12, Mark 14:1-9, Matthew 26:6-13)

- She is loving. She wants to **declare His Worth.**





B. Mary demonstrates a steady progress in worship – learn, lean and experience

C. Mary honoured the Lord while others did not:

1. Lazarus - was watching

2. Simon the leper – was watching

3. Martha – was working and worrying

4. Eleven disciples – was watching

5. Judas Iscariot – was complaining and finding fault





Conclusion

- “The house was filled with the odour of the ointment”- everyone there was made a part of the experience
- People may criticize but in spite of that, there will always be One who will receive our worship and honour those who honour Him. Matthew 23:12; I Peter 5:5-
- It honours the Lord when His people expresses extravagant worship
- No gift is too excessive, no sacrifice too great
- Praise God for every opportunity to give our all to Him